

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL~~ U.S. OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

11 September 1953

REFERENCES

50X1-HUM

PAGES

6

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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From 1947 to March 1950, Koethen airfield was successively occupied by a fighter regiment, a ground attack regiment and elements of an air reconnaissance regiment. In October 1949, the fuel dump of the field was enlarged, and a new fuel dump was established north of the field in March 1950. In the spring of this year, surveying for the construction of a runway scheduled to be 1,800 meters long and 60 meters wide with a concrete surface 15 cm thick and a taxiway was started. From April through October 1950, the air units stationed at the field moved to some other installation because of construction work conducted in Koethen. After the ground attack regiment moved to Reinsdorf and the air reconnaissance regiment to Stendal, Koethen airfield was occupied by two fighter regiments in April 1951.

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Annex

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Koethen AirfieldI. Location

- a. 51 km south-southeast of Magdeburg, 2 km south of Koethen.
- b. Coordinates 51°43'30" N/11°58'30" E.
- c. Elevation 92 meters above sea level.

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II. Approach Facilities

The entire complex of buildings north of the airfield is surrounded by a board fence 2.5 to 3 meters high. This board fence extends as far as the approach lane at the eastern edge of the field and probably about 50 meters further to the south. The entire field is surrounded by a fence. It has not yet been determined where this fence consists of wire and where it is a board fence. The fields west of the installation may offer good possibility of observation. After darkness, the Koethen-Baasdorf road is patrolled by double sentries armed with rifles. When air activity is conducted at the field, the road is blocked near the approach way.

III. Installations

<u>Installation</u>	<u>Data Available</u>
<u>Landing fields:</u>	sod, level
<u>Hardstands:</u>	Available on landing field, in front of hangars and the flight control station and on the leveled floor of destroyed hangar H 4.
A 1 through A 3:	Hardstands used by alert planes.
<u>Underground bunker:</u>	Near AA gun emplacement at the southern edge of the field.
<u>Railroad connections:</u>	The field is served by Koethen railroad station. The spur track which comes from the north follows the Koethen-Baasdorf road as far as the ammunition dump; north of fuel dumps T 1 and T 2, the spur track turns west through the complex of buildings.
<u>Temporary buildings:</u>	Landing ramps are available at the heating plant, the fuel dumps, storage shed No 1 and between heating plants Nos 1 and 2.
<u>Lighting facilities:</u>	One temporary building each is available north of the airfield (utilization unknown), near AA gun emplacement No 2 (probably used as quarters for AAA soldiers) and near the hardstand of north-west taxiway.
<u>Aircraft revetments:</u>	Two truck-mounted searchlights are usually posted at the western end of the runway. Runway lights have been fitted on both sides of the runway. A row of searchlights has been set up in the eastern extension of the runway as far as radio installation C. The outer row of searchlights, seven units, projects its light upward.
<u>Flight control station:</u>	Numerous aircraft revetments are available.
<u>AAA protection:</u>	Building with a tower.
	Emplacement No 1 on the southern edge of the field consists of 6 x 37-mm AA guns. Truck 15 tents, 1 wooden cabin and 1 underground bunker were also observed there. Emplacement No 2, located between the firing range and the hangars, consists of 6 x 37-mm AA guns.

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<u>Installation</u>	<u>Data Available</u>
<u>Radio installation:</u>	Installation A was observed east of the field, north of the road to Badegast. Only a temporary building and a radio truck were seen. Radio installation C was located in the eastern extension of the runway. Radio installation D was observed at the northwestern exit of Pfriemsdorf, at the eastern extension of the runway. Radio trucks were seen at various places of the airfield. Garages Nos 1 through 6 are large buildings; garage No 7 possibly belongs to fuel dump T 3.
<u>Garages:</u>	
<u>Trenches:</u>	Numerous trenches are available at the installation.
<u>Hangers:</u>	Hangers H 1 through H 3 measure about 90 x 45 meters each and are fitted with vaulted roofs; hanger H 4 is destroyed and its floor has been leveled.
<u>Heating plants:</u>	Heating plant H 1 is in operation. H 2, previously a heating plant, is now probably being used as a weather station. The building is guarded by a sentry.
<u>Zeroing in and firing range:</u>	The range is located on the Koethen-Baasdorf road within the fence surrounding the airfield.
<u>Kitchen buildings:</u>	K 1 houses the kitchen and restaurant, K 2 serves as a clubhouse.
<u>Compensating disk:</u>	The disk is located west of hanger H 1.
<u>Storing facilities:</u>	Lg 1 is a warehouse; building Lg 2 stores cement pipes.
<u>Ammunition dump:</u>	The ammunition dump is located on the southern edge of the landing field and consists of four temporary buildings; the installation is guarded by double sentries. Fire fighting equipment is available.
<u>Pumping station:</u>	The pumping station is located near the western fence outside the field area proper.
<u>Taxiways:</u>	See sketch.
<u>Runway:</u>	The west-east runway is 1,800 meters long, 60 meters wide and has a concrete surface 15 cm thick.
<u>Road blocks:</u>	Three road blocks consisting of barriers are available on the Koethen-Baasdorf road. The barriers are probably closed when air activity is conducted.
<u>School:</u>	The building is in the northern portion of the billeting area.
<u>Athletic field:</u>	On the eastern edge of the billeting area.
<u>Fuel dumps:</u>	T 1 was built prior to 1945. It is an underground installation; fuel drums are also being stored there. Fuel containers have been dug in. T 2 was newly established and adjoins T 1 to the east. It extends further to the north than T 1. At least six large fuel containers have been built in there. T 3 consists of three temporary buildings and piles of fuel drums. The installation is fitted with spotlights. Fuel is delivered to the field from Velten and Aken.
<u>Telephone lines:</u>	See sketch.
<u>Billets:</u>	U 1 quarters the airfield commandant, U 2 through U 9 are officer billets. The occupation of U 10 through U 20 is unknown. Soviet dependents live in the town of Koethen.
<u>Administrative buildings:</u>	Vw 1 through Vw 3, no details available.

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Annex InstallationData AvailableRepair shop:

The hangar is located at the site of the flight control station.

Guard house:

The guard house is located at the northwestern gate of the installation.

Weather station:

The station is located at the old heating plant. A wind cone was observed on top of the tower of the flight control station.

Fence:

The southern and western borders of the landing field are secured by a wire fence; a wooden fence surrounded the complex of buildings and extended along the eastern border of the field.

The field is occupied by the headquarters of a fighter division and a fighter regiment equipped with MiG-15s.

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